Patent Application of Marc F. Stein, Anthony Argiropoulos and Richard P. Silva

FIGURE 1. Flowchart Demonstrating the Creation of the Introductory Account Using a Magnetic Stripe Card.

(1) (a) The consumer ("Consumer") utilizes the touch-screen keyboard of an automated and transactional readable card dispensing kiosk (the "Kiosk") to input certain identifying information that is required by the linked bank or financial institution (the "Sponsor"). This may include information such as name, social security number, address with zip code, State issued diver's license number, telephone number and a personal identification number chosen by the Consumer.

(1) (b) After the Consumer's data is input by the Consumer, the data is electronically transmitted to the Sponsor through the telecommunications network to which the Kiosk is linked.

(1) (c) The Sponsor will verify the Consumer's data through the use of secured databases available to the Sponsor for such purposes. If the Consumer's data is not verified, then the transaction ends at this step (1)(c). If the Consumer's data is verified then the transaction proceeds to step (1)(d).

(1) (d) The Sponsor generates a financial account for the Consumer. The account is electronically linked to an individual magnetic stripe card (the "Card") by the magnetic stripe card reader that forms part of the Kiosk.

(1) (e) The Kiosk dispenses the Card to the Consumer, who may now use is as depicted in Figure 2.

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FIGURE 2. Flowchart Depicting Initial Funding of Account Using Magnetic Stripe Card.

(2) (a) The Consumer offers to purchase consumer goods from a vendor (the "Participating Vendor") for cash.

(2) (b) The Participating Vendor inputs the transaction details, i.e. the cost of items purchased, applicable sales tax (if any), the cash tendered and the change due back to the Consumer from the Participating Vendor into the Participating Vendor's point of sale register/cash register, which is linked to a telecommunications network by modem and telephone wire, cable or other secure transmission conduit.

(2) (c) After inputting the transaction details, i.e. the cost of items purchased, applicable sales tax (if any), collecting the cash tendered by the Consumer in exchange for the consumer good the cash tendered and computing the change due back to the Consumer from the Participating Vendor, the Participating Vendor will run the Introductory Card through a magnetic stripe card reader.

(2) (d) The cash sale transaction details are collected for verification by the Consumer through the use of a linked touchpad, keypad or electronic signature reader.

(2) (e) If the Consumer verifies the cash sale transaction details, then the transaction proceeds to step (2) (f). If the consumer does not verify the information or the information is incorrect, the transaction may be re-entered and the process will restart at step (2) (b).

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(2) (f) Upon the consumer's verification of the cash sale transaction details, the Participating Vendor will electronically fund the Introductory Account in the amount of the change due to the Consumer at the point of sale less any Participating Vendor or Sponsor charges.

(2) (g) The Consumer may continue to use her Introductory Card to fund her Introductory Account until the Sponsor issues a Permanent Account and Permanent Card to the Consumer. [See Figure 3.]

END of FIGURE 2